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BOROUGH OF DORCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE

BOROUGH OF DORCHESTER

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954

I.B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

G.F. ALLARD, D.P.A., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Senior Sanitary Inspector

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Alderman H. G. LONGMAN (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs. N. O. JACKMAN, J.P. (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman A. G. R. POPE, J.P.

Councillor T. JEREMY

Councillor J. ROGERS

Councillor Mrs. E. K. HALLETT, J.P.

Councillor E. S. SMITH

Councillor H. G. READ

Councillor Mrs. E. H. MOORE

Councillor W. A. NEAL

Councillor A. H. BISHOP

Ex-officio Councillor D. H. NAPPER, J.P. Mayor

STAFF - HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health (Combined Appointment)

I. B. LAWRENCE, B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector

C. F. ALLARD, D.P.A., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

K. H. JAMES, M.S.I.A.

Clerical Staff

Miss K. M. FORD

Miss S. G. BURGESS (Combined Appointment) (Resigned 22.9.54.)

Miss M. A. SMITH (Combined Appointment) (Appointed 21.9.54.)

County Clinic,
Glyde Path Road,
Dorchester.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and the Councillors of the
Borough of Dorchester

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fifth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough of Dorchester for the year 1954. It is written on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health.

The year was notable in the low incidence of Infectious Diseases, one case of Measles compared with 176 cases last year and 19 Whooping Cough cases compared with 28 for last year. This was marred however by a small outbreak of Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) 8 cases were confirmed over a period of five months. Of these cases, 5 had paralysis, with unfortunately 1 death and three were non-paralytic.

There were seven cases in the surrounding district.

No cases of Food Poisoning were notified. Talks and films on Clean Food were continued again during the year. School leavers were included in the talks.

A short report was made to the Health Committee on the Coronary Disease of the Heart and its possible causes and the increase in cases of Lung Cancer throughout the country.

The Mass Radiography Service was again made available to residents of the Borough. I wish more people would make use of this valuable method of detecting early disease of various kinds.

Since the de-control of meat and livestock (July 2nd, 1954), the slaughter of cattle is carried out in the Borough by two private slaughter-houses. This naturally has increased enormously the work of the Sanitary Inspector, the numbers killed have been more than doubled. I feel the long hours worked, is undoubtably a strain on the officers and must obviously affect their other work in the Borough.

Regarding housing, it is very satisfactory to know that all the tenants have been removed from the Poundbury Huts and re-housed. The building of new houses is gradually increasing and we must look ahead and provide houses for persons displaced from unfit houses.

I wish to thank all members of the Council for their kindness and help during the year, and my fellow officials on the staff of the Health Department for their willing cooperation in spite of their heavy burden of meat inspection.

Your obedient Servant,

I. B. Lawrence.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures for 1953 shown in brackets)

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1,675 acres
Resident Population	..	...	...	...	...	11,750 (11,610)
No. of houses inhabited at the end of 1954				...	...	3,254 (3,266)
Rateable Value (1st April, 1955)			...	...	...	£102,973 (£101,406)
Sum represented by Penny Rate	.		...	...	...	£400 (£395)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population - Estimate for Births and Deaths Rates 11,750 (11,610)

Comparability Factor	Births	1.08
	Deaths	.93

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Legitimate	84	77	161	
Illegitimate	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	
Totals	<u>87</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>167</u>	(170)

Still Births

Legitimate	4	-	4	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>	(4)

<u>Deaths - All Causes</u>	57	73	130	(200)
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Deaths of Infants under 1 year (Infant Mortality)

Legitimate	1	-	1	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	(1)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks (NeoNatal Mortality)

Legitimate	1	-	1	
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	
Totals	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>	(-)

				1954	1953	1952
Birth Rate	...	...	...	15.3	15.6	13.6
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	15.2	15.5	15.3
Death Rate	...	...	...	11.0	15.3	10.9
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	11.3	11.4	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...	6.0	6.5	26.0
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	25.5	26.8	27.6

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Tuberculosis, respiratory...	...	...	...	1	-	1	(2)
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	-	-	
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	1	1	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-	-	
Meningitis	...	...	...	-	-	-	
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	...	-	1	1	
Measles	...	...	...	-	-	-	
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	1	-	1	
Cancer of stomach..	...	...	...	2	1	3	(5)
Cancer of lung, bronchus	...	...	...	2	1	3	(6)
Cancer of breast...	...	...	...	-	4	4	(4)
Cancer of uterus...	...	...	...	-	2	2	(-)
Other Cancers	...	...	...	4	7	11	(19)
Acute Anaemia	...	...	...	-	-	-	(-)
Diabetes	...	...	...	-	1	1	(2)
Vascular lesions of nervous system...	...	...	...	5	13	18	(41)
Coronary Disease, angina	...	...	...	11	5	16	(26)
High Blood Pressure with Heart disease	...	...	...	1	2	3	(4)
Other Heart disease	...	...	...	9	12	21	(25)
Other circulatory disease....	...	...	...	2	2	4	(18)
Influenza	...	...	...	-	-	-	(3)
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	4	7	(7)
Bronchitis	...	...	...	-	2	2	(9)
Other diseases of respiratory system..	...	...	...	-	-	-	(1)
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	-	1	(2)
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea...	...	...	...	-	1	1	(1)
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	...	2	1	3	(2)
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	4	-	4	(3)
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-	-	(1)
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	-	-	(2)
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	7	10	17	(13)
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	-	-	-	(3)
All other accidents	...	...	...	1	2	3	(-)
Suicide	...	...	...	1	1	2	(1)
All Causes	...	...	...	57	73	130	(200)

It is to be noted that the Birth Rate has increased in the last two years, while the Death Rate remains appreciably the same, but the Infant Mortality Rate is maintaining its low figure.

All compare favourably with those for All England and Wales, even without multiplication by the Comparability Factors.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table summarises the notifications of the Infectious Diseases made during the year :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>										<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital Deaths</u>	
	<u>0-</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>3-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>10-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>25-</u>	<u>45-</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>A.U.</u>		<u>Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	2	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2+	-	7
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infantile Paralysis	-	-	1	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	8	8	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

A small outbreak of Poliomyelitis occurred in the latter half of the year. The first case occurred in June. This child came on holiday and developed the illness two days later.

The surrounding Rural District was also affected and in all fifteen cases were confirmed. The last case occurred in the Rural District on 24th December.

During the course of the outbreak it was necessary to recommend closing one school and excluding immediate contacts of a case, in another school.

I would like to add an appreciation of thanks to the press, cinemas and other organisations for their kind co-operation, which I am sure helped to allay many fears on the part of the public..

It is to be noted that no case of Food Poisoning was reported during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1954, the following cases and deaths from Tuberculosis were notified :- (figures for 1953 shown in brackets)

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS ..	1(4)	2(3)	-(1)	1(1)	1(1)	-(1)	-(-)	1(-)

Only 4 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year. When this is compared with a figure of 19 in 1951, one feels that the new drugs and methods of treatment are having a marked effect.

The total number of cases in the Borough has been reduced from 74 last year to 51 this year.

The County Council Medical Staff are using a new method of preventing Tuberculosis by offering B.C.G. immunisation to school children at about the age of 14 years. The response has been very good.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

The Mass Radiography Unit again visited Dorchester from June 29th to July 16th. Unfortunately the machine developed a mechanical fault, which suspended operations for a few days.

I would like to point out that the x-ray discovers many more minor defects than major ones and it is in everyones interest to have an x-ray.

The attendance figures were as follows :-

Total number X-rayed.	Males	Females	Boys	Girls
2956	1073	1043	469	371

It is regretted that the number are nearly 600 below that of 1952.

Regular x-ray examinations are strongly recommended.

I again would like to thank the press for their kind co-operation in publicising the visit.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Dr. T.V. Cooper of the County Laboratory and Dr. G. H. Tee of the Public Health Laboratory have again been most helpful during the year and I appreciate their ready co-operation.

The following is a table of specimens submitted to the Laboratories :-
(Totals for 1951 in brackets)

Throat Swabs	...	195	(183)	Milk	...	...	171	(12)
Faeces	...	...	104	(199)	Ice Cream.	...	84	(9)
Blood	...	...	42	(60)	Water	...	103	(6)
Ringworm	...	...	3	(32)	Sewage	...	47	(-)
Sputum	...	...	120	(2)	Miscellaneous...	...	44	(18)

HOUSING.

<u>Council Houses.</u>	<u>In process of erection.</u>	<u>Completed 1954</u>	<u>Completed since War.</u>
Temporary -	-	-	-
Permanent -			
Traditional Type	28	32	226
Non-Traditional Type	-	-	26
Converted into Flats	-	-	5
Hutted Camps	-	-	-
No. of Council Houses (pre-war)			272
No. of Post War Houses completed and occupied at 31/12/54.			252
Total number of Council Houses at 31/12/54.			524

The new Housing and Rents Act 1954, has placed the onus on Local Authorities to resume their full exercise of their powers under the Housing Acts 1936, in regard to Slum Clearance and to carry out a survey and submit proposals for dealing with unfit houses, within the next twelve months.

Fortunately the largest single area has already been surveyed and a representation has already been made regarding part of the area. A survey is now being carried out for the remainder of the district, so that the Council can have an overall picture of the unfit houses, but this need not delay Slum Clearance Action.

It is pleasing to see that the building has commenced on the Poundbury Estate off Bridport Road and some accommodation is being made for old persons, although I would submit that accommodation nearer the Church, Post Office and shops would be more suitable.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

Four cases were brought to my notice during the year, but no removal was recommended under Section 47. In two cases the Home Help Service was sought. In another, good neighbours helped out, the fourth went to hospital.

The provision of a group of Old Persons Bungalows with a part time Warden, would I am sure, be a godsend to some old persons. They need warmth, independence and facilities for meals and a central common room to meet their friends or neighbours.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

I have found this service most helpful and when possible they have worked wonders in some of the houses.

The service in the Borough is run by part time helpers.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

To call the Ambulance for routine work, ring Dorchester 420, in an emergency ask the exchange for Ambulance. Always state urgency, nature of case, full address and which Ambulance is required, eg. sitting or stretcher case.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During 1954 new extensions of sewers have been made at

Poundbury Housing Estate	Foul Sewer	1200 yards.
	Surface Water	300 yards.
Manor Road	Foul Sewer	1600 yards.

A new pumping station has been built for Manor Road.

No change has occurred at the Sewage Disposal Works and as reported before the plant is inadequate and requires substantial new works.

Samples of the Effluent are unsatisfactory and river samples show pollution.

It is hoped this year that sanction of the Ministry will be given to improve the works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING & REFUSE.

This is carried out by the Surveyors Department.

A small new refuse disposal site was started last year, but its capacity is limited. At present refuse is collected weekly.

A report was made to the Public Health Committee by the Senior Sanitary Inspector, pointing out that many dustbins were not satisfactory in construction or securely covered - many illnesses are attributed to flies who love dustbins.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply is chloraminated. This was first commenced in 1938.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammonia, free ...	...	...	...	...	...	0.065
" albuminoid ...	...	...	...	...	...	0.114
Nitrites ...	...	...	...	...	...	absent
Nitrates ...	...	...	...	...	...	7.42
Oxygen absorbed in 15 mins. at 80°F ..	...	...	...	...	...	0.360
" " " 4 hrs. " " ..	...	...	...	...	...	0.426
Chlorine ...	...	...	...	...	...	27.0
as Sodium Chlorine ...	...	...	...	...	...	44.50
Hardness, Temporary ...	...	...	...	...	...	192.5
" Permanent ...	...	...	...	...	...	67.5
" Total ...	...	...	...	...	...	260.0
pH value ...	...	...	...	...	...	7.4
Total solids ...	...	...	...	...	...	386.0
Metals: Iron, zinc, copper, lead ...	...	...	...	...	...	absent
Appearance: Colourless and Clear						
Odour: None						

Report on the Analysis of a Sample of Water.

This is a clear, bright, hard water. It contains some, but not undue amount, of organic matter.

The chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution of the water, and in my opinion this supply should prove suitable for both drinking and domestic purposes.

16th November, 1954.

Public Analyst.

Bacteriological samples have been taken regularly and all from the rising main have been reported as satisfactory.

An application was made to the Ministry for the provision of greater water storage facilities for the Borough. Following an inquiry, approval was given in principle but not to the full capacity asked. Unfortunately the Council felt they could not proceed with the scheme at the present time.

Water mains have been extended for a distance of 1200 yards on the Poundbury Estate.

METEOROLOGICAL DETAILS - YEAR 1954.

Month	Rainfall inches	Rain Fell On days	Sunshine hours	Temp. in deg. F.	
				Maximum	Minimum
January	2.20	12	75.25	56	20
February	4.54	20	92.25	53	16
March	5.36	19	126.25	58	18
April	0.14	4	228.00	62	31
May	2.24	15	179.00	75	54
June	3.44	14	160.15	73	43
July	3.31	11	150.00	69	43
August	4.50	19	170.40	75	44
September	4.79	22	162.50	75	32
October	4.31	24	75.60	65	30
November	7.63	22	44.65	58	26
December	3.97	17	41.25	55	25
Totals	46.43	199	1,505.30		

Totals In.

1953	33.20	1,605.19
1952	40.11	1,664.16
1951	52.36	1,620.58
1950	46.28	1,577.00

The year 1954, with the exception of 1951, was the wettest in the last 5 years and also had the least hours of sunshine.

Sanitary Inspectors' Office,
North Square,
Dorchester.

June, 1955.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Dorchester.

Annual Report for 1954.

I present the following report on the work carried out by your sanitary inspectors in the year 1954.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, came into operation on 31st August, 1954. The change of emphasis in housing work to slum clearance is evident in the Act and has been reiterated in circulars 30/54 and 55/54 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. This change of emphasis is welcomed by public health officers.

The Council was again asked to consider improvements to the office accommodation provided for the sanitary inspectors.

The work of the department has been dominated by the increased meat inspection necessary following the decontrol of slaughtering in July. Few persons realise what meat inspection entails - the examination of a carcase of beef, for example, may include more than forty operations. In addition, the inspector must carry out the ante-mortem inspection of animals, ensure that the animals are laired, fed and watered properly, and humanely slaughtered, inspect the slaughterhouses, yards and lairs to ensure a satisfactory standard of hygiene, supervise the cleanliness of workers and equipment, be satisfied with the disposal of manure, and rejected and inedible meat and offals, and ensure the hygienic dressing, loading and transport of meat.



Senior Sanitary Inspector.

1. INSPECTIONS - 1954.

Under the Housing Acts:

Inspection of dwelling-houses	617
Re-inspection of dwelling-houses	148
Visits re overcrowding	11
Unclassified	25
	801

Under the Food and Drugs Acts:

Inspection and visits re unsound food	73
Inspection of "food premises"	219
Visits to slaughterhouses	801
Visits to dairies (including sampling)	69
Unclassified	28
	1,190

Under the Public Health Acts:

Inspection and/or testing of sewers/drains (including soil and ventilating pipes)	334
Inspection of closets and cesspools	17
Inspection of filthy or verminous premises	32
Inspection of public conveniences	1
Inspection for detection and abatement of statutory nuisances	53
Inspection and sampling of water supplies	5
Enquiries and visits re infectious diseases	154
Inspection of tents, vans and sheds	2
Unclassified	15
	613

Under the Factories Acts:

Inspection of factories	14
Visits to outworkers' premises	1
Unclassified	6
	21

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act:

711

Under the Shops Act:

Inspection under s.38, Shops Act, 1950	1
Other inspections	3
	4

Under Petroleum Acts:

55

Under the Pet Animals Act:

1

Total: 3,396

2. COMPLAINERS - 1954.

Disrepair of houses	33
Overcrowding or other inadequate housing conditions	10
Unsound food or unsatisfactory conditions in food premises	3
Defective and/or choked drains, sewers, closets, cesspools, etc.	22
Verminous and/or filthy premises	5
Offensive accumulations or deposits	5
Other public health nuisances	15
Rats and mice	21
Unclassified	1
Total:	<u>115</u>

3. NOTICES - 1954.

	Informal Notices		Formal Notices.	
	Served	Complied with	Served	Complied with
Under (or preliminary to action under) Public Health Acts	14e	15	1	1
Under (or preliminary to action under) Housing Acts	29e	35	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Food and Drugs Acts	12	10	-	-
Under (or preliminary to action under) Factories Acts	4	2	-	-
Totals:	59	62	1	1

e In addition, following the inspection of houses owned by the Council, the attention of the Borough Surveyor was drawn to defects in 195 houses.

4. HOUSING.

During the year the Council took formal action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, in respect of two premises, details of the action taken being shown below:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>Persons Displaced</u>
3 Charles Street	Undertaking not to re-let accepted by Council 7.1.54	Premises vacated before official action was taken.
47 Holloway Road	Closing Order made by Council 13.7.54	Premises vacated before official action was taken.

The following premises were dealt with informally between Committees of the Council:-

11 Colliton Street	Resolution not to re-let by Buildings and Markets Committee 30.11.54	Premises vacated before action was taken.
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Details were submitted to the Health Committee of fifteen houses which are unfit for human habitation and not capable of repair at a reasonable cost. In the case of eight houses formal action has been taken during 1955, three remain to be dealt with informally between Committees of the Council and in the case of one house action has been deferred. The Health Committee accepted an informal undertaking not to use a van for living purposes.

Reports were prepared on the housing condition of eleven families who were applicants for re-housing.

An inspection was made of houses owned by the Council, and the following table indicates the conditions found:-

Number of houses inspected	489
Number of occupiers given written notice of unsatisfactory conditions (i.e. lack of cleanliness)	3
Number of occupiers given verbal notice of unsatisfactory conditions (i.e. lack of cleanliness)	18
Number of houses overcrowded	1
Number of houses "under-occupied" (i.e. with more than one spare bedroom)	47
Number of houses with major defects which have been brought to the attention of the Borough Surveyor	Nil
Number of houses with other defects which have been brought to the attention of the Borough Surveyor	195.

Two applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were received from tenants whose landlords had given notice of rent increases under the Act. One application was approved and a certificate issued during the year under review. The other application was granted and a certificate issued in 1955.

5. FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises in the area, classified under the principal trade carried on, is as follows:-

Butchers	11
Fishmongers	7
Grocers and provision merchants	31
Bakers and flour confectioners	6
Greengrocers	7
Confectioners	14
Hotels	12
Restaurants	16
Public houses and clubs	21
Other	<u>2</u>
Total:	<u>127</u>

The number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and of inspections made (including visits for sampling) is as follows:-

	<u>No. registered.</u>	<u>No. of inspections.</u>
For the sale, or manufacture, or storage of ice-cream	39	66
For the preparation or manufacture of meat products or preserved foods	4	10.

The number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and of inspections made (including visits for sampling) is as follows:-

Distributors with premises within the Borough	3
Distributors trading from outside the Borough	2
Retail shops selling bottled milk only	<u>10</u>
Total:	<u>15</u>
Number of inspections	69.

6. FOOD HYGIENE.

A series of talks on food hygiene to the staff of manufacturing butchers had been commenced in 1953 and were completed early in 1954. In addition to talks by the Medical Officer of Health, Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service and the Senior Sanitary Inspector, suitable films were shown and demonstrations made.

A further series of talks was given during the year to the members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Films and exhibits of insect pests of food and of various food specimens were included.

The selling from stalls and barrows of mackerel caught off local coasts must be an old practice, but considerable comment was caused by a stall which stood in Cornhill on market days and sold many varieties of fish. Improvements were secured in the type of stall used and the way the fish was displayed, but at no time did there appear to be a lack of customers. Food hygiene is largely a matter of education, but whatever efforts are made by public health officers by inspection of food premises, talks to food handlers and other methods, the standard of food hygiene in the district is set to a great extent by the buying public, principally the housewife.

If the housewife is not satisfied with conditions or practices in food shops, complaint should be made immediately to the proprietor or manager. If the matter is not satisfactorily dealt with then a complaint to the Health Department is fully justified.

7. FOOD INSPECTION.

Milk. The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1954, came into operation on 1st April, 1954. As a result all milk retailed within the Borough of Dorchester must be specially designated milk, i.e. "Pasteurised", "Sterilised", or "Tuberculin Tested" milk.

Fifty-six samples of milk were taken, with results as indicated:-

	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>
Tuberculin Tested	31	7
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	8	-
Pasteurised	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals:	<u>49</u>	<u>7</u>

One hundred and twelve samples of washed bottles were submitted for examination, with results as indicated:-

Satisfactory	97
Fairly satisfactory	5
Unsatisfactory	<u>10</u>
Total:	<u>112</u>

Six samples of churn rinses were submitted for examination, with results as indicated:-

Satisfactory	5
Unsatisfactory	<u>1</u>
Total:	<u>6.</u>

Ice-Cream. Ice-cream is manufactured on a small scale on one premises, heat treatment of the mix being undertaken in accordance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 to 1952.

Seventy-one samples of ice-cream were submitted for bacteriological examination, the results of which are indicated below:-

	<u>Manufacturer</u> <u>(Hot Mix)</u>	<u>Other bulk</u> <u>Ice-Cream</u>	<u>Pre-packed</u> <u>Ice-Cream</u>
Provisional Grade 1	4	4	41
Provisional Grade 2	-	2	4
Provisional Grade 3	1	6	2
Provisional Grade 4	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Totals:	<u>5</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>51</u>

In addition nine samples of iced lollies and two samples of ice-cream lollies were submitted for bacteriological examination.

Forty-three samples of various other foods, including twenty-nine samples of meat products or their ingredients, were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory. None of the samples contained food poisoning organisms.

The scheme of liquid egg sampling undertaken at the request of the Ministry of Food was completed early in the year. A total of ninety samples taken from a local egg packing station were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. None of the samples showed organisms of the salmonella or other food poisoning groups.

The quantities of food found to be unsound and voluntarily surrendered to the department for disposal are shown in the following table. The food is surrendered at the office of the Sanitary Inspectors and disposed of by burying at the Council's refuse tip.

Canned or other prepacked foods:-

840 lbs. meat or fish (424 packs).
1,725 lbs. fruit or vegetables (1,004 packs).
135 lbs. milk (120 packs).
47 lbs. soup (47 packs).
252 lbs. other pre-packed foods (198 packs).

Other foods:-

771 lbs. meat, bacon and meat products.
203 lbs. fish.
526 lbs. fruit.
66 lbs. other "open" foods.

Total weight: 4,565 lbs.

8. MEAT INSPECTION.

For the first six months of the year premises in the Borough continued to be used by the Ministry of Food as a Government Slaughterhouse. In addition to the Borough, the slaughterhouse served six neighbouring districts and a population exceeding 100,000.

When the decontrol of meat came into operation in July, 1954, the premises used as a Government Slaughterhouse continued in use under a private licence. The licensee undertook to provide slaughtering facilities for the retail needs of neighbouring districts in which slaughtering facilities were not available at charges agreed with the butchers' organisations. Another slaughterhouse, which is principally concerned with a wholesale veal and lamb trade, and which operated before the war, was re-opened under a private licence.

Inevitably, it was some weeks before private slaughtering settled down to anything approaching a system. It quickly became evident, however, that there would be a large increase in the number of animals killed and in the hours worked. In fact, the numbers increased three-fold, and by the end of the year, animals were passing through the slaughterhouses equivalent to an annual rate exceeding 50,000.

Slaughtering takes place over very long hours, and the following gives an indication of what might be regarded as an average week:-

	<u>Slaughterhouse A.</u>	<u>Slaughterhouse B.</u>
Sunday	6 a.m. to 6 p.m.	5 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Monday	8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	9 a.m. to 11 a.m. 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday	8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	9 a.m. to 11 a.m. 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m. to 8 p.m.	9 a.m. to 11 a.m. 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Thursday	8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	9 a.m. to 11 a.m. 2.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m. to 2 p.m.	-
Saturday	-	-

It has been made clear to the two licensees that the Council wishes to achieve the inspection of all carcasses which pass through the slaughterhouses, and this has very nearly been achieved. To do so, however, your sanitary inspectors must be on duty each Sunday, (for the whole day) and at least three and sometimes four evenings a week. Inspectors have been on duty as early as 5 a.m. and as late as 11 p.m. Between ten and fifteen additional hours are worked each week.

With Dorchester a market town and the centre of a stock-rearing area, the wholesale meat trade assumes a greater importance than the local butchers' trade. Little more than a twentieth of the carcasses from the Dorchester slaughterhouses are distributed for consumption in the Borough, and more than a half are sent outside Dorset.

When the slaughtering was controlled by the Ministry of Food, the financial burden of providing an adequate meat inspection service was lessened by contributions received from neighbouring authorities. The Council has been fortunate enough to make provisional arrangements for this system to continue on revised terms, although as the result of the increased wholesale trade by Dorchester butchers the Dorchester Borough Council's contribution has been proportionately increased.

During 1954 34,606 animals were slaughtered, out of which 34,475 (99.6 per cent) were inspected. Details are shown in the accompanying table.

The total quantity of meat and offal rejected as unfit for human consumption amounted to approximately 130 tons, of which 63 tons were affected with tuberculosis.

Twenty-three localised cases of cysticercus bovis, equivalent to 0.61 per cent of all cattle inspected, were found by routine examination during the year. The distribution of the cysts is shown below; no generalised cases were found.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned - 1954.

	<u>Cattle excluding cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Goats.</u>
Number of animals slaughtered	2,053	1,760	12,405	10,718	7,667	3
Number of animals inspected	2,047	1,739	12,371	10,655	7,660	3
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	3	26	12	21	-
eCarcases of which some part or organ was condemned	696	894	70	940	322	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis	34.15	51.58	0.78	8.93	4.48	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	8	25	6	-	11	-
eCarcases of which some part or organ was condemned	156	305	24	-	198	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.01	18.98	0.24	-	2.73	-
eCarcases included under both head- ings above	54	170	-	-	8	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis and/ or other disease	39.52	60.78	1.02	8.93	7.10	-

Number of cattle affected.

Head only affected (Masseter muscles)	16
Heart only affected	<u>7</u>
Total number of cases	23

Five cases of congenital tuberculosis in calves were notified to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to enable him to trace the dams, which are then slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

The facilities of the Public Health Laboratory, which is under the direction of Dr. G.H. Tee, are available for the examination of specimens from carcasses. During the year eighteen specimens from twelve animals were submitted for examination.

9. SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 and 1954.

During the year one licence to slaughter or stun animals was renewed and nine licences were issued. A total of nineteen licences were in force at the end of the year.

The Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, came into force on 1st October, 1954. Under this Act all licences issued will now operate for not more than one year and will specify the kinds of animals which may be slaughtered or stunned and the types of instruments which may be used by the holder.

10. WATER SUPPLIES AND DRAINAGE.

In addition to the routine samples taken by the Council's Water Engineer, four samples of the public water supply were taken by the sanitary inspectors. The samples were satisfactory.

As a result of the provision of sewers to the South Court estate almost all the houses on the estate have been connected to the main drainage system and the cesspools formerly in use have been filled in. A large number of visits were made to inspect and test the connections and new drains.

11. FACTORIES.

The following table shows the number of factories on the Council's register and details of inspections made.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>on</u> <u>Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written</u> <u>Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers</u> <u>Prosecuted.</u>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	-	-	-
(11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	64	14	4	-
(111) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities (excluding outworkers premises)	-	-	-	-
Totals:	82	14	4	-

Notification was received during the year of forty outworkers employed in the making of wearing apparel and five employed in the making of nets, other than wire nets.

12. CAMPING CONTROL.

In 1954 there were three licensed sites for individual caravans, one of which was discontinued during the year. Another licence issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was amended for twenty-nine caravans to be stationed on the site instead of thirteen.

13. DUSTBINS.

The attention of the Council was drawn to the number of premises within the Borough which are not provided with proper covered dustbins. The receptacles in use are often inadequate and insanitary and without covers encourage flies, with the possibility of the spread of disease.

Owners and occupiers should ensure that all premises are provided with proper covered dustbins, and that they are used properly, to reduce a health hazard to the community.

14. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Moore's swabs were kept in the high and low level sewers and one hundred and thirteen swabs were submitted for examination. One hundred and eleven gave negative results.

During the year three premises were disinfected.

15. RODENT CONTROL.

The Council's rodent control service was continued on the lines of the scheme approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. No charge is made for the destruction by the Council of rats and mice, except in the case of business premises. The work carried out during the year is summarised below:-

Number of properties	3,845
Number of inspections	711
Number of premises treated	98.

Test baiting of sewers was undertaken at 33 manholes; ten takes were recorded. A maintenance treatment of thirty manholes was carried out.

16. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

During the year fourteen premises were disinfested.

17. RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Under the above Act five premises on which upholstery, etc. is carried out are registered by the Council. Premises within the Borough are not used for the manufacture or storage of rag flock.

18. DEALERS IN OLD METALS.

Six dealers in old metals are registered by the Council under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

19. PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 and 1936.

The number of licences in operation was fifty-four.